

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

Legal Applicant Name: Rio Grande Educational Collaborative Program Name: Reading and Math Success	Application ID: 12AC134722
--	-----------------------------------

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. This feedback is provided on a restricted basis and cannot be shared or distributed outside of your organization. We hope you will find this information helpful in completing applications to our future grant competitions. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of your application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from more than one reviewer. For this reason, some of the comments may seem to be inconsistent or contradictory.

Reviewers Summary Comments:

- The applicant presented an excellent plan for Member recruitment, training and supervision and clearly ties Member activities and services to program outcomes. Members will serve as positive role models in the schools and communities to be served. However, the applicant did not make a clear and compelling case for the need for this program in the targeted schools. There was no data indicating that targeted school students were below average proficiency in reading and math or in need of other services provided through the program.
- The targeted community is 20 elementary schools within three counties in New Mexico that include 900 students most at risk of school failure. How ten half-time AmeriCorps members and volunteers will implement a research-based program in an after-school setting is delineated and linked, with the primary outcome being 80% of the students enrolled at least six months will improve by one grade level in reading and math. There is a well- documented system of orientation, training and supervision for volunteers and AmeriCorps members; and Members have opportunities and experiences that enhance their service-learning, include reflection, and have a lasting impact. In summary, this application includes all the required elements to assure project success.
- The applicant presented a very strong link between the scientific-based curriculum and learning software to the expected outcomes for the targeted population. While the applicant provides for training in the required teaching software, there is uncertainty where the applicant states that “all Members will be required to have the ability to carry out the listed essential functions with or without reasonable accommodations.” There was a very strong training plan in place for AmeriCorps members, designed to teach them the skills they would need to make the program successful. AmeriCorps members would be encouraged to self-reflect by keeping journals of their experiences and to engage with community members as representatives of CNCS. Members would be also expected to associate with other AmeriCorps and/or VISTA programs at the community and state levels.
- The proposal has done a good job of identifying target area needs; quality of AmeriCorps recruitment, training, and services to address those needs; and evidence of the activities helping to cover the gaps in

APPLICANT FEEDBACK SUMMARY

2012 AmeriCorps State and National Grant Competition

services. The narrative, however, provides only marginal details about the community engagement of the Members beyond the stipulated program services.